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fore, replace the pieces of wood and give the cord a few turns, adjust the angles and tighten up. Braces can then be put across the corners on the back of the frame, or, where the edges will admit, a saw kerf can be made in the corners and a piece of veneer glued in. —*American Inventor.*

Useful Items for Office and Shop.

A CEMENT for such purposes as fixing metal letters to glass windows consists of copal varnish, fifteen parts; drying oil, five parts; turpentine, three parts; oil of turpentine, two parts; liquefied marine glue, five parts. Melt in a water-bath, and add ten parts dry slaked lime.

CEMENT FOR STEAM JOINTS.—Take sal-ammoniac, two ounces; sublimed sulphur, one ounce; fine cast-iron turnings, one pound; mix in a mortar, and keep dry. When to be used, mix with twenty times its quantity of clean iron turnings or filings, and triturate the whole in a mortar; then wet with water until of proper consistence. A red putty for steam joints can be made of stiff white lead worked well in red-lead powder.

WATERPROOF PAPER.—Sheets of stout manila passed through a hot bath of aqueous solution of zinc chloride (at 75° B.), pressed strongly together and then soaked in dilute aqueous soda solution containing a small amount of glycerine, cohere to form a strong, stiff, waterproof board admirably adapted to the construction of small boats. Single sheets of paper passed quickly through the zinc chloride bath, pressed and washed and dried, are waterproof, and may be otherwise joined to form waterproof boards by any suitable cement.

IMITATION EBONY.—The following recipe, which we take from the *Revue Industrielle*, will answer numerous correspondents who have inquired how to turn oak black so as to cause it to resemble ebony. The wood is immersed for forty-eight hours in a hot saturated solution of alum, and then brushed over several times with a logwood decoction, prepared as follows: Boil one part of best logwood with ten parts of water, filter through linen, and evaporate at a gentle heat until the volume is reduced one half. To every quart of this add from ten to fifteen drops of a saturated solution of indigo, completely neutral. After applying this dye to the wood, rub the latter with a saturated and filtered solution of verdigris in hot concentrated acetic acid, and repeat the operation until a black of the desired intensity is obtained. Oak thus stained is said to be a close as well as handsome imitation of ebony.

IMITATION ROSEWOOD.—A concentrated solution of hypermanganate of potassa is spread on the surface of the wood, and allowed to act until the desired shade is obtained. Five minutes suffice ordinarily to give a deep color. A few trials will indicate the proper proportions. The hypermanganate of potassa is decomposed by the vegetable fibres with the precipitation of brown peroxide of manganese, which the influence of the potassa, at the same time set free, fixes in a durable manner on the fibres. When the action is terminated, the wood is carefully washed with water, dried, and then oiled and polished in the usual manner. The effect produced by this process on several woods is remarkable. On the cherry, especially, it gives a beautiful red color. The color resists well the action of air and light, and the process seems very simple.

Drawings for the Million.

THE complete clearing out of our "Detail Sheets" has encouraged us to offer the following packages of valuable drawings for sale, at the extremely low price of one dollar a package.

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Package No. 2 contains 15 elevations with plans of cottages and villas, 3 elevations and plans of churches, also over 200 designs of piazzas, bay-window cornices, hood brackets, gable triangles, chimney caps, crestings, window-caps, trusses, dormers, doors and frames, porches, corner finish, canopies, cornice arch, screens, gutters, brick and wood work, beltings, stair-balusters, newel-posts, flues, etc., etc. Price $1.

Package No. 3 contains 39 elevations and plans for cottages, villas and dwellings; 10 elevations and plans for churches; and 146 designs for brick and stone work, shipwork, half-timbered work, verandas, drawing lessons, windows, doors, etc., etc.; also 26 designs of cornices, panels, etc., for plasterers. Price $1.

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CONTENTS.

	Page
A Word for Mechanics	125
Concerning Bricks	125
The Tenement-House Bill	126
The New Postal Law	126
Minor Editorials	127
The British Workman	129
The Antiquity of Engineering	129
How Picture-Frames are Made	129
Turning the Tiber	130
Correspondence	130
Questions and Answers	131
New Publications	131
Our Lithographic Illustrations	132
Value of the Eucalyptus	132
Styles in Wall-Papers	132
Building Notes	137
Industrial Notes	139
Miscellaneous Notes	141
Publisher's Department	142
Insurance	143
Building Patents	143
Price-List	144

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